Belchertown Board of Health  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday March 6, 2017 at 7:30 PM  
Lawrence Memorial Hall

Present: Gary Racicot, Roger Bonsall, Robert Hutchinson, Sean Cleary and Andrew Drawec

In-Attendance: Judy Metcalf, R.S., CHO Director of Public Health  
Recording Secretary: Mary Grenier

Gary opened the meeting at 7:31 PM.

762 Bay Road Well Replacement Permit: Owner Scott Cote; Engineer Bob Sheehan, Jr.; seeking variance from regulation §285-6 A minimum setback requirements, driveway or like right of way required 10’ requesting 6’. Robert Sheehan, Jr. was present and explained that the shallow well on the property has gone dry. Due to lot constraints the well drilling equipment would not be able to access the rear yard far enough to maintain the required setback to the SAS. Mr. Cote has cut through the driveway to lay the well line. Mr. Cote said he understands that he will need to install safety measures because the lines are so close to the driveway. R. Bonsall motioned to approve variance from regulation §285-6 A for replacement well to be no less than 6’ from edge of driveway, due to lot constraints and shallow well on the property has gone dry. A. Drawec seconded. All in Favor.

J. Metcalf addressed the Board; Christopher Heights, the assisted living facility proposed for the old state school property will be present at the Board’s April 3, 2017 meeting. They will be asking for plumbing code variances.

The Board was given a printout by the MMLA with information on the State’s new “Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act” which added Chapter 94G to the general laws “Regulation of the Use and Distribution of Marijuana not Medically Prescribed”. Although the Board will not be permitting any medical establishments (ME’s) the Board should familiarize itself with the new laws. Other Departments and the community may look toward the BOH for advice.

Local newspapers were reporting a bird kill by the USDA that took place in Agawam, West Springfield and a farm in Belchertown in January 2017. Our office was getting phone calls from residents worried about the poison that was used, what was it and is it harmful to pets. J. Metcalf made some calls and was told they could not give out that information. The USDA said that personnel from the agency’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service had carried out targeted poisonings which included Belchertown. This was in response to a specific request the agency received and the agency does not provide the names of those asking for assistance and that information is protected under the Privacy Act. Agawam and West Springfield had similar problems. Officials are upset that they were not notified beforehand. Several cities and towns have sent letters to their State Representatives wanting the laws to change so that local officials are notified in advance. And they ask that a valid reason be given why the public should not be notified.
New England Small Farm Institute (NESFI): their appeal of the Zoning Enforcement Officer's decision regarding the operation of a commercial slaughterhouse at George Hannum Street is still pending with the Zoning Board of Appeals. No new information has been brought forward.

The Board reviewed a request from Mary Grenier, recording secretary for a wage increase. The last increase received was in 2008. M. Grenier asked for the amount to be the same as her position as senior clerk. J. Metcalf has gone through the budget line item, part-time wages, and there is money in the budget for a wage increase. S. Cleary motioned to approve a wage increase to Mary Grenier, recording secretary to be the same as her senior clerk position effective immediately. R. Bonsall seconded. All in Favor.

Board signed warrant.

A. Drawec motioned to accept the meeting minutes of December 5, 2016 as amended. R. Bonsall seconded. All in Favor.

S. Cleary moved to close the meeting at 8:23 PM. R. Hutchinson seconded. All in Favor.

Mary Grenier, Recording Secretary

Roger Bonsall, Vice Chair

Sean Cleary

Andrew Drawec